

Norway Maple

(*Acer platanoides* — includes cultivars like ‘Crimson King,’ ‘Emerald Queen,’ ‘Deborah,’ ‘Royal Red’)















Norway Maple is a widely planted shade tree known for its dense canopy and deep purple-leaf cultivars. In Colorado, Norway Maple often struggles with **alkaline soils, heat stress, chlorosis, verticillium wilt, girdling roots**, and several insect pests. It grows best in **cooler, moist, well-drained soils**—conditions not ideal across much of the Front Range.



Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons: 🌸 Spring | ☀️ Summer | 🍂 Fall | ❄️ Winter

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Aphids	Insect	Spring–Fall	🌸☀️🍂
Scale insects	Insect/scale	Spring crawlers; visible year-round	🌸❄️

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Maple borers (flatheaded & roundheaded borers)	Insect/borer	Summer	
Leaf spot / anthracnose	Fungus	Spring–Summer	 
Verticillium wilt (high concern)	Fungus	Spring–Fall	  
Chlorosis (very common)	Abiotic	Spring–Summer	 
Leaf scorch (heat/drought stress)	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	 
Girdling roots	Structural/abiotic	Visible year-round	   

## Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment &amp; Management</u>
Aphids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sticky honeydew</li> <li>• Sooty mold on leaves/cars</li> <li>• Leaf curling or distortion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hose-rinse foliage</li> <li>• Encourage beneficial insects</li> <li>• Systemic treatments for major outbreaks</li> </ul>
Scale (oystershell, cottony, & others)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hard or cottony bumps on bark</li> <li>• Branch dieback</li> <li>• Yellowing canopy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treat crawler stage in late spring</li> <li>• Apply horticultural oil late winter</li> <li>• Prune heavily infested twigs</li> </ul>

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment &amp; Management</u>
<b>Maple Borers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• D-shaped or round exit holes</li> <li>• Branch dieback</li> <li>• Boring dust at cracks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid tree stress—borers target weakened trees</li> <li>• Deep water during heat spells</li> <li>• Professional preventive sprays as needed</li> </ul>
<b>Anthracnose / Leaf Spot</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brown blotches</li> <li>• Early leaf drop in wet springs</li> <li>• Distorted leaves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rake &amp; remove leaves</li> <li>• Improve airflow; avoid overhead irrigation</li> <li>• Fungicide rarely required</li> </ul>
<b>Verticillium Wilt</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sudden wilting on one side</li> <li>• Brown or green discoloration in sapwood</li> <li>• Progressive limb dieback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No cure—manage stress</li> <li>• Prune affected limbs</li> <li>• Deep watering &amp; mulch to support vigor</li> </ul>
<b>Chlorosis (Iron Deficiency)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bright yellow leaves with green veins</li> <li>• Reduced growth</li> <li>• Canopy thinning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iron trunk injections (pros)</li> <li>• Soil acidification treatments</li> <li>• Reduce overwatering in clay soils</li> </ul>
<b>Leaf Scorch (Heat/Drought)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brown crispy edges</li> <li>• Leaves drop mid-summer</li> <li>• Early fall color</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep water every 2–3 weeks</li> <li>• Maintain mulch ring</li> <li>• Avoid reflected heat sites (south/west exposures)</li> </ul>
<b>Girdling Roots</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-sided dieback</li> <li>• Trunk “flat spot” at soil line</li> <li>• Poor canopy density</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expose root flare</li> <li>• Remove girdling roots (pros only)</li> <li>• Long-term correction may be needed</li> </ul>

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### When to Worry vs. When It’s Cosmetic



**When to Worry (action recommended)**

- Sudden wilting on one side (possible **Verticillium wilt**)
- Severe chlorosis causing branch decline
- Borer exit holes or piles of frass
- Heavy scale infestation with sooty mold
- Progressive canopy thinning in hot summers
- Noticeable trunk constriction/girdling roots

These issues often need **professional arborist evaluation**.

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#### **Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)**

- Light anthracnose in wet springs
- Minor scorch during heat waves
- Small patches of scale
- Occasional aphid honeydew
- Early color change in drought years

These typically resolve with **seasonal conditions and proper watering**.